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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE CRISIS
USSR / CUBA

Information as of 0600

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Cuban exiles reacted with mixed feelings to ending of the quarantine. Many initially expressed bitterness and the feeling that the US had let them down. Some of the more activist leaders, and those who regard Castro as primarily a problem for Cubans to deal with, expressed gratification and confidence in Castro's eventual overthrow. One leader declared that plans for further hit-and-run raids on Cuban targets would now be resumed.

SOVIET POSITION

In his 28 November discussion with US officials, Mikoyan made it clear that the USSR's principal objections to the US draft declaration were:

(1) The extensive conditions the US was now applying to assurances against invasion of Cuba.

(2) US insistence on the need for continued aerial reconnaissance of Cuba. Calling the US draft declaration a "bad one," Mikoyan charged that the US position on guarantees against invasion, as now stated, was a "direct retreat from the statement in the President's letter (27 October)." He specifically cited the US stipulation that if Cuba takes any action which the US regards as jeopardizing the security of the Caribbean, then US obligations against invasion would lapse.

During the discussion, Mikoyan continued to maintain that the wording in the US draft declaration should conform to the language used in the exchange of correspondence between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev.

Communist China continues to exacerbate the Sino-Soviet dispute with its oblique attacks on the Soviet Union for retreating in the face of the US stand in Cuba. A 29 November People's Daily editorial, in support of Castro's 25 November demands for reciprocal inspection and insistence on the cessation of US aerial reconnaissance, implicitly scores Moscow for being intimidated by "US nuclear blackmail."